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ABSTRACT

Questionnaires were sent to Deans of Students at Texas community colleges in order to gather information on the international (foreign student) programs at the various colleges. Areas examined included admissions requirements, pre-conditional admissions requirements, and handling of international students subsequent to admission. Of the 46 schools responding to the survey, 39 indicated they enrolled international students. The average number of internationals per institution was 64, with six schools reporting international enrollments in excess of 100, and one school with more than 600. Two-thirds of the colleges admitting internationals had a staff member designated as international student advisor, although only three had separate budgets for an international student office. Admission requirements were found to vary, with the Test of English as a Foreign Language primarily used as a screening device. Some financial aid, albeit limited, was available to international students, and most schools provided developmental programs in English and mathematics. Among the recommendations offered to improve the effectiveness of international programs were establishment of an international student advisor organization, requirement of automobile and hospitalization insurance for internationals, and budgetary and staff support for international student offices at schools enrolling 75 or more internationals. (JDS)

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THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM IN TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES 1976 - 1977

A STATUS STUDY

by

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DEAN OF STUDENTS

HENDERSON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE

ATHENS, TEXAS

May, 1977

JC 770 264

The International Student Program

in Texas Community Colleges

1976 - 1977

The international student has been a familiar face on Texas college and university campuses for many decades; however, international student enrollment at Texas community colleges was merely a trickle during the 1960's and early 1970's. This situation changed as more internationals sought an education in America and as the students realized that the cost of education at Texas community colleges was less than that of other states and that admission requirements were not as strict at 2-year colleges as at senior institutions. The student influx began during the early 70's and of the 46 schools responding to the survey, 39 indicate the international student is a part of their student population.

The number of internationals admitted by the several institutions varies greatly, with seven institutions indicating they did not admit internationals. This contrasts with the 610 students reported by one institution. Although less than one percent of the students attending Texas community colleges are internationals, one institution reports nearly 17 per cent of its student body is composed of internationals.

Faced with ever increasing requests from internationals for admission, questions concerning admission requirements, special requirements, developmental programs and staffing have become areas of concern to the community college staff and administration. In order to determine the status of

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international student programs at the several institutions, a questionnaire was prepared and sent to the Dean of Students or equivalent at the several institutions in the spring of 1977.

The survey deals with the overall international program at the institutions. Areas of interest included (1) admissions requirements; (2) requirements placed on the student as a pre-condition to the admission; (3) handling of the international student after admission.

The questionnaire consisted of 25 questions with multiple answers possible. The data gathered was treated as a composite with respondents divided into three groupings based on total FTE figures for the spring, 1977. Group A consists of those institutions reporting an FTE of 1200 or less; Group B consists of those institutions whose FTE ranged between 1201 and 2200; Group C consists of those institutions whose FTE for the spring, 1977, was in excess of 2201. The fourth category, Group D, is a composite of institutions whose international student enrollment exceeded 50 students.

Terms Used in the Study

FTE:	Full time equivalent - individual student carrying 15 semester hours.
International:	That individual who is a citizen of another nation and is in the United States to further his education.
TOEFL:	Test of fluency and ability to speak English and write the English language.
International Student Advisor: (I. S. A.)	That individual who is responsible for the international student program at a particular institution.
H. C.:	Head count

SUMMARY

General Information:

The analysis of the data reveals that a typical organizational pattern does not exist. Institutional approaches are truly individualistic in nature, although some common denominators occur.

Forty-six responses were received with 39 of the responding institutions indicating that they did admit international students. Sixteen of those responding indicated that they had an enrollment of 50 or more internationals.

The average number of internationals per institution was 64 with one institution reporting more than 600 among their student body. Six other institutions reported an international enrollment in excess of 100.

Although 39 institutions admitted internationals, only 26 reported that they had a staff member designated as international student advisor, with all of the respondents assigning the advisor other duties.

Three institutions had established a separate budget for the international student office. Secretarial assistance was provided the ISA by 16 of the respondents with 15 of the secretaries assuming this responsibility in addition to their other duties. The international student advisor is generally a part of the student services staff, although he reports to the Academic Dean at four of the responding institutions.

Admission Requirements:

Admission requirements varied with the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) used as a screening device by the several institutions. Scores ranged from 300 to the 550 required by four of the respondents.

Another area of concern deals with hospitalization insurance. While only four schools required insurance, several indicated that

the matter is under study. Seven institutions required that the students live on campus, while five required the student to board. It should be noted that 19 of those responding to the survey provided on campus housing for the students. A security deposit was required as a pre-condition of admission by 14 of the respondents. Other requirements included car insurance, certificate from a bank in the student's home country attesting to the student's credit, annual income of $3,000 and satisfactory completion of an English Language School program.

Post Admissions:

Special assistance furnished international students included financial aid, scholarships and work; however, this assistance was limited. Thirty four of the schools provided some type of developmental program to help the internationals overcome their deficiencies, with the majority of these programs limited to English and mathematics. A limited number of the respondents reported that testing indicated the special courses are meeting the needs of the student.

The handling of discipline problems concerning the international student was entrusted to the international student advisor at 12 of the institutions.

All but one institution permitted the international to transfer at the completion of one semester. In the larger institutions, academic counseling of the internationals was assigned to a specific member of the staff, while in the Group C institutions it was not.

Three institutions reported the existence of a foreign student committee as a standing committee.

CONCLUSION

There is an ever increasing number of internationals seeking admission to Texas Community colleges; however, there are no common standards

through which admission patterns are determined. Institutions admitting 50 or more internationals have no established program pattern. Group B institutions tended to provide the international with more financial assistance, scholarships and work than the other two groups. It would appear that a prime purpose for admission of the international student is financial as well as exposure to different cultures, beliefs and educational development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that consideration be given to the establishment of an international student advisor organization to provide for the dissemination of ideas, information and programs. Such an organization would allow for the interchange of dialogue and hopefully result in improved international student programs.

Also, consideration should be given to requiring hospitalization insurance and automobile insurance. The development of an international student conduct or cooperation transcript which would allow the receiving institution to evaluate the incoming student should be considered. It is further recommended that those institutions enrolling 75 or more internationals provide funds to support an international student office, adequate staffing, developmental programs and student services programs to allow for the fastest absorption of these students into the college body.

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The International Student Program in Texas Community Colleges
1976 - 1977
General Information
Table I

	Number of Institutions Responding to Questionaire	Number of Institutions Admitting Internationals	Number of Institutions Admitting 50 or more Internationals	Average H.C. - F.T.E. 1976 - 1977 per Institution Admitting Internationals HC	FTE	Average Number of Internationals Enrolled 1976 - 1977
Group A FTE 1976-77 1200 or less	12	10	3	1093	948*	59
Group B FTE 1976-77 1201 - 2200	18	15	6	2319	1526*	62
Group C FTE 1976-77 2201 or more	16	14	7	8645	5797*	82
Composite of Institutions Admitting 50 or more internationals						
Group D	N/A	N/A	16	5996	3515*	143

HC = Head Count FTE = Full Time Equivalent *Weighted average

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The International Student Program in Texas Community Colleges
1976 - 1977
General Information
Table II

	International Student Advisor Staff Position Exists	Institutions Placing Limit on Number of Internationals Admitted	Separate Budget Established for I. S. A. *	I. S. A. is Responsible to:**
Group A FTE 1976-77 1200 or less	5 / 10	3 / 10	0 / 10	Student Services
Group B FTE 1976-77 1201 - 2200	9 / 15	4 / 15	2 / 15	Student Services
Group C FTE 1976-77 2201 or more	12 / 14	0 / 14	1 / 14	Student Services
Composite of Institutions Admitting 50 or more internationals				
Group D	12 / 16	5 / 16	3 / 16	Student Services

* I. S. A. - International Student Advisor
** 4 institutions have the I.S.A. report other than to the Dean of Student Services

The International Student Program in Texas Community Colleges
1976 - 1977
Admission Requirements
Table III

	TOEFL Required for Admission		Mean Score Required on TOEFL	Hospitalization Insurance Required		Security Deposit* Required		Students Required to Live on Campus	
	Yes	No		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Group A FTE 1976-77 1200 or less	8	2	447	0	10	5	5	3	7
Group B FTE 1976-77 1201 - 2200	10	5	450	3	12	6	9	3	12
Group C FTE 1976-77 2201 or more	9	5	490	1	13	3	11	1	13
Composite of Institutions Admitting 50 or more internationals									
Group D	8	8	450	3	13	6	10	3	13

* Ranges from $25.00 to $2400.00

The International Student Program in Texas Community Colleges
1976 - 1977
Special Information
Table IV

	Is Financial Aid Available to the International Student		Is Scholarship Aid Available to the International Student		Is Work Available For the International Student		Developmental Courses are Provided the International Student	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Group A FTE 1976-77 1200 or less	0	10	1	9	1	9	10	0
Group B FTE 1976-77 1201 - 2200	4	11	5	10	4	11	11	4
Group C FTE 1976-77 2201 or more	2	12	2	12	5	9	13	1
Composite of Institutions Admitting 50 or more internationals								
Group D	4	12	4	12	6	10	12	4

* Only 26 institutions report I.S.A. position exists.

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